

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling volume in a communication device, comprising:
 - 5 detecting a change in manual volume setting; measuring current background audio level;
determining a relationship between the current background audio level and the volume setting;
establishing the relationship as a desired volume level to be maintained;
 - 10 monitoring subsequent background audio level;
comparing the current background level to the subsequent background level;
determining whether a change in background level occurred; and
automatically adjusting volume based on the relationship.

2. A method for controlling volume in a communication device, comprising:
manually setting a volume control for an initial background audio level;
establishing the set volume as the preferred volume setting for that initial
background audio level;
- 5 monitoring subsequent background audio levels; and
 maintaining an audio level for the subsequent background audio levels based
on the preferred volume setting for the initial background audio level.

3. A communication device, including:

a controller for monitoring background audio levels;

a manual volume control coupled to the controller, the manual volume control setting a volume level as a user preference for a current background audio level; and

5 the controller providing automatic adjustment of the volume level based on the user preference for the current background audio level in response to any change in the monitored background audio level.

4. A communication device, including a controller providing automatic volume control based on current background noise level, initial user volume setting, and subsequent background noise level.

5. A communication device, comprising:

a controller;

a manual volume control coupled to the controller, the manual volume control establishing a user selected preferred volume level for an initial background audio

5 level;

a microphone coupled to the controller, the microphone sampling subsequent background audio levels; and

a speaker coupled to the controller, the speaker having a volume level automatically adjusted by the controller based on the sampled subsequent background

10 audio level and the user preferred volume level for the initial background audio level.